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CITY OF BOSTON.

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AN ACCOUNT

OF THE

ERECTION AND RECEPTION

OF THE

EQUESTRIAN STATUE

OF

WASHINGTON.

1869.

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ESTATE OF ABRAM E. CUTTER,
AUG. 10, 1907.

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NOTE.

An Equestrian Statue of Washington having been erected on the Public Garden in this city, by the "Washington Statue Committee," it was formally delivered to the City of Boston, and received by His Honor the Mayor, on July 3, 1869, with the following ceremonies.

While the Statue was in process of erection upon its pedestal, the following public announcement was made:

Boston, June 29, 1869.

The Washington Statue Committee take pleasure in announcing that, if the weather is fair, the statue erected in the Public Garden will be unveiled on Saturday, July 3, at half past five o'clock, P. M. At the same time it is expected that the Chairman of the Committee will deliver the statue into the custody of the city.

Should the weather be stormy, the ceremony will be postponed to Monday, July 5, at half past five o'clock in the morning.

The members of the City Government, the artists, the subscribers to the fund, the Committee of the Everett Statue, and the lady patronesses of the fair held in 1859 for the benefit of this statue, are respectfully invited to be present.

ALEXANDER H. RICE.
THOMAS RUSSELL.
JOHN D. W. JOY.
CHARLES G. LORING.
BENJAMIN CHAMPNEY.
F. H. UNDERWOOD.
WARREN SAWYER.
GEO. H. CHICKERING.
BENJ. S. ROTCH.
GEORGE W. WALES.

CEREMONIES.

THE weather on the third of July proved highly auspicious, and at the appointed hour, in presence of the Members of the City Government, the Washington Statue Committee, the subscribers to the Statue Fund, and a large concourse of people, the Statue, which up to that time had been enveloped in American flags, was unveiled, at a given signal, amid the firing of a salute of thirteen guns, the playing of Washington's Grand March by Gilmore's Band, and the enthusiastic plaudits of the assembly.

A fervent and appropriate prayer was then offered by the Rev. A. A. Miner, D. D., immediately after which was delivered the following

ADDRESS OF HON. ALEXANDER H. RICE.

MR. MAYOR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, — Among the illustrious names in modern history not one is more conspicuous than that of George Washington. Born in an epoch of revolution, when the natural rights of men, both as individuals and as members of organized society, were receiving new recognition and embodiment in new forms of government, he was also endowed with those great and peculiar gifts of virtue, wisdom and courage which rendered him "first in war, first in peace, and first in the hearts of his countrymen," and which gave his example to be the common heritage of mankind through the generations following.

To illustrate and transmit in tangible and attractive form the lineaments of those who have become thus distinguished is among the highest and most effective uses of commemorative art. For this purpose, therefore, by these simple services, and without superfluous eulogy or artistic disquisition, and with but few words of needed explanation, we now set apart this noble monument of granite and bronze — an equestrian statue — commemorative of the character and career of the Commander-in-

Chief of the Army of the American Revolution, and the first President of the United States.

We deem it appropriate that it shall stand here in the public grounds of the city to whose relief his first military service as Commander-in-Chief was devoted; facing down yonder majestic avenue toward the spot, in the neighboring City of Cambridge, where the active duties of his full command were first assumed; and that the first greetings of the morning sun upon it shall be those which usher in the most memorable anniversary in our national annals.

The erection of this statue was originally suggested in the spring of 1859; at a time when the public mind of the whole country, and especially of this community, had just been refreshed in knowledge and stimulated in interest respecting the character and services of Washington, by the fervid and glowing appeals of our own Edward Everett in behalf of the fund for the purchase of Mount Vernon — the homestead and tomb of Washington. To this monumental enterprise Mr. Everett also gave his enthusiastic support.

The committee who undertook its direction was organized on the anniversary of the battle of Lexington, April 19, 1859. To them was intrusted the selection of the particular kind of statue to be erected, the sculptor, the raising of funds, fixing upon the site, and the entire control and management of the enterprise. They gratefully acknowledge, however, the generous assistance and support which they have uniformly received from the artists of Boston, especially from those who united with them in initiating the work; from the different municipal administrations through which their duties have extended, and from that portion of the public to whom they have from time to time appealed.

Among the earliest to volunteer his valuable services on its behalf was the Honorable Robert C. Winthrop; who in less than one month after the committee was organized, delivered in Music Hall, in Boston, on the 13th of May, an eloquent and elaborate oration on "Luxuries and the Fine Arts — in some of their

moral and historical relations," in aid of the Washington Statue Fund. During the week extending from the 16th to the 24th of the following November an attractive and successful Fair, conducted by many of the patriotic ladies of Boston and vicinity, was held, also in the Music Hall, in aid of the same fund; the proceeds of which were sufficiently ample to enable the committee, on the 13th of December, to enter into a contract with Mr. Thomas Ball to execute the model of the statue which is now before us. Two days later a resolve passed the two branches of the City Council, and was approved by his Honor Mayor Lincoln, making a conditional appropriation of ten thousand dollars in aid of the fund for the statue and pedestal; and upon the same day Mr. Ball commenced his labors upon the model. On the 16th of March, 1860, the Washington Statue Committee organized as a corporation under the laws of this Commonwealth, with the powers necessary for conducting the undertaking.

The model of the statue was completed in April, 1864 — four years and four months after its commencement — and, after a private exhibition at the studio of Mr. Ball, was stored away until the close of the war should release the foundery where it was to be cast from its engagements in the employ of the National Government. In July, 1868, the committee of gentlemen who had performed the duty of erecting within these grounds the statue of the lamented scholar, statesman and patriot, Mr. Everett — toward which object the liberality of our citizens had flowed with special and becoming generosity — appropriated from their surplus fund the sum of five thousand dollars in aid of the present enterprise. In September following the City Government of Boston confirmed unconditionally its original grant of ten thousand dollars.

The contract for casting the statue was made with the Ames Manufacturing Company, of Chicopee, Mass., on the 3d day of August, 1867; and the work has been so skilfully and acceptably performed by them, that there would seem to be no neces-

sity in the future of sending to European founderies for those of similar description. The pedestal was designed by Mr. Hammatt Billings, one of the original members of the Statue Committee; and was wrought by Messrs. J. F. & F. L. Gilman; the foundations were laid by Messrs. Standish and Woodbury. Thus the entire monument and its accessories of contributors, artists, founders, stone-cutters, masons and managers have been furnished from the resources of our own State of Massachusetts.

Of the committee who have conducted the enterprise from its inception, two have died since it was undertaken, namely, John A. Andrew and Samuel E. Guild; two others have been added, and one has resigned.

It has been the intention of the committee during the progress of the undertaking to convey the statue and pedestal, when completed, to the City of Boston; to be held in trust for its citizens as an ornament to the public grounds, and as a tribute of grateful respect to the pre-eminent patriot who is appropriately and affectionately styled "the father of his country." And now, in pursuance of this purpose, and on behalf of the Washington Statue Committee, I surrender this monument to your custody, Mr. Mayor, in the hope and with the aspiration that while its granite and bronze shall perpetuate the name of Washington, it may also help to inspire in ourselves and in posterity the patriotism and virtues which rendered him illustrious.

At the close of Mr. Rice's address, which called out liberal applause, he handed to the Mayor the following letter:

BOSTON, July 1, 1869.

HON. NATHANIEL B. SHURTLEFF, MAYOR OF BOSTON:

Sir: — The Washington Statue Committee, — a corporation under the laws of this Commonwealth, composed of the following named persons: Alexander H. Rice, Thomas Russell, John D. W. Joy, Charles G. Loring, Benjamin Champney, Francis A. Underwood, Warren Sawyer, George H. Chickering, Benjamin S. Rotch and George William Wales, — has this day voted to

authorize its officers to convey the equestrian statue of Washington, by Thomas Ball, executed in bronze, and the pedestal upon which it now stands in the Public Garden, to the City of Boston, to be held in trust for its citizens forever, as an ornament to the public grounds.

By virtue of this authority, the undersigned respectfully convey said statue and pedestal, through you to the City of Boston, in accordance with the terms of said vote; and we remain

Your obedient servants,

ALEXANDER H. RICE, *President.*

F. H. UNDERWOOD, *Secretary.*

JOHN D. W. JOY, *Treasurer.*

The following response was then made by His Honor, Mayor Shurtleff.

Boston, through its municipal authorities, accepts and now formally receives this magnificent equestrian statue of the great Washington, promising to protect and preserve it most faithfully.

Long may it continue, unblemished and uninjured, to ornament these public grounds, a remembrance of the virtues and patriotism of the father of our country, and to incite and encourage all by his noble example. And may it be a lasting memorial of the talents and skill of one of Boston's most gifted sons, and of the public spirit and munificence of our citizens.

The Mayor's remarks were applauded, after which the ceremonies ended with loud cheers for the statue and Mr. Ball.

At the meeting of the Board of Aldermen, held on July 6, 1869, His Honor the Mayor submitted to the Board the following message:

Boston, July 6, 1869.

To the City Council of Boston:

Herewith, I transmit to you an instrument executed by the officers of the Washington Statue Committee, a corporation estab-

lished under the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, conveying to the city of Boston, in trust for its citizens, the bronze equestrian statue of Washington, modelled by Thomas Ball, a native of this city. On Saturday last the statue was surrendered by the committee to the city, and publicly received by me in your name and behalf, and is now at your disposal.

NATHANIEL B. SHURTLEFF, *Mayor.*

BOSTON, July 1, 1869.

HON. NATHANIEL B. SHURTLEFF, MAYOR OF BOSTON:

Sir: — The Washington Statue Committee, — a corporation under the laws of this Commonwealth, composed of the following named persons: Alexander H. Rice, Thomas Russell, John D. W. Joy, Charles G. Loring, Benjamin Champney, Francis A. Underwood, Warren Sawyer, George H. Chickering, Benjamin S. Rotch, and Geo. Wm. Wales, — has this day voted to authorize its officers to convey the equestrian statue of Washington, by Thomas Ball, executed in bronze, and the pedestal upon which it now stands in the Public Garden to the City of Boston, to be held in trust for its citizens forever, as an ornament to the public grounds.

By virtue of this authority, the undersigned respectfully convey said statue and pedestal, through you to the city of Boston, in accordance with the terms of said vote, and we remain

Your obedient servants,

ALEXANDER H. RICE, *President.*
FRANCIS H. UNDERWOOD, *Secretary.*
JOHN D. W. JOY, *Treasurer.*

The communications having been read, ALDERMAN JAMES offered the following:

Whereas His Honor the Mayor has communicated to the City Council the action of the Washington Statue Committee in conveying to the city the equestrian statue of Washington, executed

by Thomas Ball, and erected on the Public Garden, and also his acceptance of the statue in behalf of the city.

Resolved, That the grateful thanks of the City Council be presented to those citizens through whose generous contributions this noble work of art has been produced, to stimulate the patriotism, and cultivate the taste of the people.

Ordered, That the statue of Washington erected in the Public Garden, be placed under the charge of the Committee on Common and Squares, and that said committee be authorized to have a suitable inscription engraved upon the pedestal of the statue.

Ordered, That the addresses made at the unveiling of the statue of Washington on the Public Garden, together with the communication from His Honor the Mayor to the City Council, and the accompanying papers be printed as a city document.

The resolve and orders were read a second time and passed, and having been sent down to the Common Council were passed by that branch also, in concurrence, and were approved by the Mayor, July 16, 1869.

REMARKS.

The extreme length of the statue is 16 feet; its extreme height is also 16 feet; the height of Washington is 12 feet. The pedestal, which is of Quincy Granite, was designed by Hammatt Billings, and is 15 feet in length, 7½ feet in width, and 14 feet high. The weight of the statue is 10,000 pounds. The cost of the statue and pedestal was $42,400, and was defrayed from funds provided as follows:

Net proceeds of Fair, ...	$10,984 03
Donations from Friends, . . .	12,875 00
Contribution of the Everett Statue Committee, ...	5,000 00
Appropriation by the City, . . .	10,000 00
Accrued Interest.	3,583 25
	$42,442 28